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Natural Outlook MONTHLY UPDATE

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Natural Outlook Monthly Update is the TNRCC's monthly publication of environmental issues in Texas with a focus on air quality, water quality, drought, and Sunset Advisory Commission Review.

December 2000 Issue



[The Skies over El Paso](#)

Dealing with air quality has been an uphill battle for El Paso. For more than a decade, the city has been labeled "nonattainment" for the pollutants of ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. But now the city is posting impressive annual pollution reductions and avoiding violations of federal air quality standards. Local officials attribute the turnaround to strict enforcement of a broad-based clean air program, combined with public support.



[Restoring Water Quality](#)

Developing plans to reduce water pollution is not done with a broad stroke. Each watershed in Texas needs a tailor-made plan suited to the local land use, geology, and hydrology, as well as the type of water body being addressed. The TNRCC uses many

different approaches in setting pollutant limits for water bodies. Here are examples of the various water bodies and pollution problems being addressed.



[Preparation of TMDL Projects](#)

To determine how impaired water bodies can be brought into compliance with water quality standards, the TNRCC conducts a technical analysis, then draws up an implementation plan to reduce pollutants. These total maximum daily load (TMDL) projects lead to creation of a watershed action plan, which is a strategy for restoring water quality.

The above information is also published as TNRCC print publication PD-020/00-012.

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